MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

119.15
F45s

SERIES VIII

NUMBER ONE

FEBRUARY 25, 1928

72802

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

A gibbon very much like "Bimbo" of the films may be seen in Hall 15. Near him are other members of the Primate Family. Next Saturday morning the program will be made up of a number of short films: "Dog Days", "Jewels of Venus", "Heroes of the Sea", "The Mountain Lion" and "Wonder Book No. 1".

D. C. DAVIES, Director

GIBBONS

This subject was chosen as a tribute to "Bimbo", a character of the movie, "Chang" whom most of us will want to remember and learn more about. "Bimbo" is a gibbon. And the gibbons belong to the group of man-like apes. They are the smallest of the group which includes, besides, the gorilla and chimpanzee of Africa and the orang-utan of the island of Borneo. The home of the gibbons is in the jungles of southeastern Asia,—the Malay peninsula and the surrounding territory, the islands of Sumatra and Borneo which lie between Asia and Australia in the East Indies. The gibbons' chosen country is forest highlands of altitude up to three thousand feet.

Students of the gibbons recognize many different kinds scattered over their territory. But most of them differ very little from one another. The siamang, a large gibbon living in Sumatra, is distinct in having the second and third fingers of his hand joined together as far as the second joint, and also in having peculiar pouches on his neck.

The remarkable thing about the average gibbon's appearance is the length of his arms. They are so long that when standing erect the tips of the fingers touch the ground. The gibbon reverses our customary uses of hands and feet. He uses his hands and arms in traveling and his feet for carrying things. Consequently, as might be expected, his hands are larger. A gibbon's hand is more than half the length of his whole trunk; his foot is less than half as long.

Hanging by his arms, the gibbon actually walks from branch to branch, covering twelve to twenty feet and more at a swing, and making amazingly swift progress. There are no other monkeys that have developed tree-travel to as great a degree of perfection as the gibbons. There are no other animals of any kind in the jungle,—unless it be the birds,—that can keep up with the gibbon as he races through the forest. Indeed, one zoo-keeper has told of an incident in which a bird and a gibbon were pitted against each other. A bird was loosed in an enclosure where a gibbon was kept. The ape marked the flight of the bird and then swung himself through the air in pursuit. Seizing the bird with one hand in mid-air, he caught a branch at the end of the leap with the other hand and swung himself up to rest on the limb. The whole thing was done with marvellous precision and grace.

On the ground, however, as "Bimbo" himself showed, gibbons are not so sure of themselves. When the leopard chased "Bimbo", he ran with one arm lifted aloft holding his string. You may have thought that he did this to keep the string from catching on the bushes, but that is wrong. As a matter of fact, gibbons always poise their arms that way when they walk in order to balance themselves. You do the same thing when you are crossing a stream on a log, or walking anywhere where you have to be very careful where you step.

Gibbons do not walk as easily as men, but they walk on two legs much better than any other monkey or ape. All the rest of the great apes walk stooped over and use their arms to steady themselves. Gibbons come nearest of any to a real man-like posture.

"Bimbo's" kind are social folk. They travel in flocks and have great times together. In the morning, from dawn until the sun has risen above the tree-tops, they set up a great din, whooping and calling to each other as they feed or fly along through the trees. During the heat of the day they are silent and inactive. But when evening comes their chorusing may be heard again, making the forest resound. The siamang's throat pouches, mentioned earlier in the story, are used to increase the sound of his voice. They puff out when the animal is excited, creating a larger chamber in his throat which acts like the sounding box of a violin.

Baby gibbons are born one at a time, like humans. For the first six months of the baby's life it rides about clinging to the underside of its mother. Meanwhile, she continues to race pell-mell through the trees with the little one hanging on for dear life, like Sinbad's Old Man of the Sea.

Mother gibbon, it is said, takes painful care to keep her baby clean. From time to time she carries her youngster down to the streamside and scrubs it; while it, in its turn, protests and cries like all youngsters do.

While at the waterside let us watch how gibbons drink. They have the most peculiar way of taking liquid. They do not pour it down as we do, neither do they lap it up like a dog, nor draw it into their mouths by sucking as a horse does. Instead, with great originality, they dip their fists into the liquid and then lick off their knuckles.

EDMUND COOKE, Guide-Lectur.

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES
FOR
CHILDREN

119.15
F45s

SERIES VIII
NUMBER ONE
FEBRUARY 25, 1928

72502

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

A gibbon very much like "Bimbo" of the films may be seen in Hall 15. Near him are other members of the Primate Family. Next Saturday morning the program will be made up of a number of short films: "Dog Days", "Jewels of Venus", "Heroes of the Sea", "The Mountain Lion" and "Wonder Book No. 1".

D. C. DAVIES, Director

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII

NUMBER TWO

MARCH 3, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The motion pictures next week will show you how the natives of Papua, or New Guinea, live. Their houses built over the water, their ways of hunting and fishing and their work on the coconut and rubber plantations will be shown, among many other interesting things.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

DOGS

No one knows exactly how long ago nor under what conditions dogs first appeared on earth. Their fossil skeletons have been found with those of early man in all parts of the world; and it is possible that they were the first of all the animals to be domesticated.

Perhaps the first use man made of the dog was in hunting; and, although it is no longer necessary for civilized man to hunt his food, setters, pointers and other fine dogs are still being raised by sportsmen for the same purpose. As soon as man had domesticated such animals as cattle, goats, sheep, pigs and horses, he began to use the dog as a herder and protector of his flocks; and collies, sheep-dogs and other shepherd dogs are still doing the same work wherever great herds of grazing animals are to be found. When man began to own things which he valued, he trained the watch dog who guarded his property day and night. Now, almost any dog with a good bark can be trained to watch and we have specialized breeds such as the German police dogs who not only watch and give the alarm, but assist in catching thieves. In many parts of America, dogs were used by the Indians as burden bearers and they are still so used by the Eskimos of America and Asia and by peasants in European countries.

At the close of the war there were ten thousand dogs employed at the Front. Some served as patrols in No Man's Land; some carried messages; and many more wore the Red Cross emblem as they searched for and aided the wounded. We all know clever dogs whose stage tricks amuse thousands of people each year; and there are also "show-dogs" of another kind—the bench dogs, reared by their masters to conform to certain set standards and to be exhibited with the hope of winning prizes.

And last of all, but the most important of all, is the use of the dog as a companion. He may be a thoroughbred or a mongrel, a fierce watch-dog or a "toy", he may be a "one man dog", or, like Kim, "a little friend of all the world"; but he is "our dog" we love him and he repays our love with never failing devotion.

There are over seventy recognized kinds of dogs. In the city, we see but few of them. Following are some breeds we all know and a few facts about them.

The collie gets his name from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning black, and it refers to the black-faced sheep which were the charges of his ancestors and which the shepherd collies may still be found guarding in many parts of Great Britain.

The bulldog, with his tremendous courage, was first bred in England to be used in the cruel sport of bull baiting. His work was to try to seize the nose of an infuriated bull and to hang on. His lower jaw was brought forward and his nose made to recede, through generations of breeding, so that he could keep his hold on the bull's nose without having his breathing disturbed. The sport was made illegal in 1835.

The poodle has been made to look like a clown by clipping his woolly hair in curious patterns; but he is one of our most intelligent dogs. It is he who is most often trained for "animal acts" on the stage and there seems to be no end to his ability to learn tricks.

The chow or chow-chow is a "one man dog". He usually obeys his master implicitly; but no one else can even claim his interest. His ancestors were probably Asiatic Eskimo dogs.

The fox terrier is called "terrier" because he and his relatives were bred thousands of years ago to hunt animals which lived in burrows in "la terre", the ground. He is small, but he has enough courage and energy for several dogs.

The airdale is one of our largest terriers. Up to sixty years ago, he was scarcely known outside of Yorkshire, England, and there he was looked upon as a mongrel. Now he is one of our best known and most dependable dogs.

And, last of all, the dog which we usually call "German police" is, in reality, a shepherd dog. His early ancestors guarded the flocks of the Bronze Age man, and his later ones, the flocks of the peasants of Europe.

Before you leave the building, look at the wild members of the dog family in Hall 15 and study their skeletons in Hall 17.

DOROTHY COCKRELL, Guide-Lecturer.

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES

FOR

CHILDREN

SERIES VIII

NUMBER TWO

MARCH 3, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The motion pictures next week will show you how the natives of Papua, or New Guinea, live. Their houses built over the water, their ways of hunting and fishing and their work on the coconut and rubber plantations will be shown, among many other interesting things.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII

NUMBER THREE

MARCH 10, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

If you wish to see how coconuts grow and some of the very useful things which can be made from them, you will find them in Hall 25, cases 47 and 49, and in Hall 29, cases 802 and 820. Next Saturday, the Entertainment will include films on "Soaring Wings", "Death Traps", "Monkeys", "High in the Andes" and "Hoofs and Horns".

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

COCONUTS

Climbing a fruit tree to get apples is easy compared to gaining the top of a tall palm tree to reach the coconuts. The stem of the coconut palm rises from sixty to a hundred feet in the air, without a branch. At the top the long leaves form a huge "feather duster" with large bunches of fruit, almost hidden, near the center.

The coconuts in the clusters do not seem at all like those we buy in market. That is because those in the market have had the outer husk removed. The coconut is protected by many coats. The brown outer covering is rather thin but tough. Beneath this is a spongy husk an inch or more thick, made of a mass of fibers. Underneath the fibrous coat is the hard shell in which the coconut is sent to market. Within the hard shell is found the meat and milk. One end of the coconut has three small holes, which give the fruit the appearance of a monkey face with eyes and rounded mouth. Two of these holes are closed, one open. It is through this opening that the young sprout of a new plant emerges.

It is as interesting to watch the growth of a coconut from seed to palm tree as to see a baby chick grow to a crowing cock. If the weather is very warm and damp, the coconut may sprout before it is planted. On germination the growing point makes its way through the opening in the shell. Once well outside, it continues to grow and develops thick white roots which push their way through the fibrous husk. The sprout also develops a green shoot or "plumule", which pushes toward the sunlight. That part of the infant plant, which in almost all plants forms the seedling leaf or leaves, remains within the coconut shell and is transformed into a large absorptive organ. It bulges into the center of the coconut until it fills the whole interior. Then it acts as a temporary stomach, absorbing the milk and the meat, which is the food stored in the nut for the growth of the young palm tree. When the food is used up, the absorptive organ shrivels; and the whole coconut shell begins to decay. The young tree is now able to get food from the ground and the air.

Like other palms the young coconut tree sheds its lower leaves continously; the slender stem is rough with leaf scars and shreds of old leaf sheaths. As soon as the tree is old enough it begins to form its large flower clusters. There are two kinds of flowers,—numerous small ones filled with pollen; and large ones which are later to become the fruit. When the wind blows, the pollen is scattered like dust on the large seed-bearing blossoms; and then the small flowers die and fall. The large flowers, which at first look more like tiny pumpkins than like flowers, soon grow larger and turn green. For a time they seem like large acorns; and then they begin to develop the thick outer covering of the full-grown coconut. Coconut palms begin to bear fruit when they are six or seven years old and continue to produce crops of coconuts for fifty years or more. Like many plants in tropical climates, flowers and fruits can be seen at the same time on a single tree practically all year.

Natives of some tropical places depend largely on the coconut palm for food, clothing and shelter. The leaf bud at the very top of the tree makes delicious palm cabbage salad; but to gather it kills the tree. The sap of the tree, obtained usually by cutting the unopened flower clusters, is boiled down to sugar or fermented to produce palm wine. In some places in the South Seas, coconuts form the main dish for breakfast, dinner and supper. The fruit is usually eaten before it ripens. The milky liquid in the green fruit makes a refreshing drink. Sometimes the softer portions of the meat, mixed with coconut milk, are eaten as a kind of pudding. Children of the tropics eat a strange kind of coconut candy,—the part of the sprouted coconut which bulges into the center and absorbs the meat and milk. It is tender and sweet. Some island peoples make coconut oil by exposing the meat in the sun until it shrinks and the oil contents ooze out; then they rub the oil over their bodies.

Coconut shells make good dishes. Some Melanesians cut, carve and polish the shells and produce beautiful baskets and cups. One group in the South Seas seeks the aid of a hungry shrimp to hollow out coconuts so that the shells can be used as bottles. Coconuts with their "eyes" punched open are placed in water where a small variety of shrimp lives. The creature swims through the eye into the center of the coconut and eats out all the meat; thus the unbroken shell becomes a bottle.

Coconut palm leaves may be used as roof thatch; and split palm leaves provide natural fringe for skirts. The midribs and splints from the large leaves are woven into baskets, fire fans and other useful objects. Many people today make a business of raising coconuts to get "copra",—the dried meat full of valuable oil; "coir",—the fibrous material in the husk; and fresh white meat good for shredding, ready for cakes and candies. To name every product of the coconut palm tree would make a very long list, indeed.

MARGARET FISHER, Guide-lecturer

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

If you wish to see how coconuts grow and some of the very useful things which can be made from them, you will find them in Hall 25, cases 47 and 49, and in Hall 29, cases 802 and 820. Next Saturday, the Entertainment will include films on "Soaring Wings", "Death Traps", "Monkeys", "High in the Andes" and "Hoofs and Horns".

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII

NUMBER THREE

MARCH 10, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER FOUR
MARCH 17, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

When you have seen the film on "Soaring Wings", you will enjoy going to Halls 20 and 21 to study the birds there. Next Saturday, the program will include, "Assorted Babies", "The Fight for Life", Niagara the Glorious", "Where the Moose Runs Loose and "Feathered Braves".

D. C. DAVIES, Director

FLIGHT

Everyone who has seen birds, it is safe to say, has envied them their power of flight. Few people have ever tried to find out how to fly. And fewer still ever dreamed, until a short time ago, that men would actually imitate them. Yet flying is no more difficult for a bird than walking is for us. Most of us find it almost as hard to explain walking as flying. The reason is that, like the birds, we learned so young and so well that we are unconscious of the skill we employ.

Let us think a little about both means of travel—birds' and men's—side by side so that we may use the more familiar one to help explain the other. No animal moves without some work on its part. If we were not willing to work in order to move and stand upright, the safest thing for us to do would be to lie flat on the ground like a plank of wood, or other lifeless thing. It costs us muscular effort, in the first place, merely to stand on two legs. We constantly tend to fall over. We only keep from doing so by moving the weight of our bodies so as to preserve our balance. We work more or less steadily at this all day long, and we don't realize what a tiring job it is until we feel the relief of tumbling into bed at night where we are glad to lie until morning with no more trouble about balancing.

If, in addition to balancing, we want to move around, we must go through other motions. Our weight rests on our feet and our feet are touching the ground. So, in order to move in any direction we may choose, we simply push the ground away from us in the opposite direction. This is called walking.

Now a bird does pretty much the same thing. He also has the double job of keeping from falling down as well as moving along. It would not do, however, for us to carry the comparison between walking and flying too far, for they are much different. Our weight is always well supported at the point where our feet rest. So, we are able to devote our greatest effort to covering the ground. But a flying bird is resting on air that does not support its weight for a moment if he stops. Consequently, the bird works hardest at keeping afloat. It is not nearly as hard for him to move along through the air as it is for us to travel over the ground, because air is so much more yielding than earth.

Birds' flight has been likened to swimming or rowing in air. However, even this helpful way of picturing flight does not do justice to the bird, for water supports the weight of a fish or a boat while the air will not support a motionless bird, as aforesaid. Yet, as far as the actual stroke of the wings goes, it is something like a rowing motion, except that it is a down beat instead of a horizontal one.

The wing is tilted with its back edge up, as the down stroke is made. The effect of the air's resistance to the wing, tipped this angle, is to push the bird upward and forward. In a sense, birds' flight might better be likened to treading water than swimming. It is only because of the tilt of the wing that the bird moves forward by the downward beat. On the return stroke, the wing is folded so as to lessen air-resistance.

Our city pigeons can glide on outstretched wings for quite a distance without beating the air. But if you watch them closely you will find that they are always nearer the ground at the end of a glide than at the beginning. In other words, they are not beating the game by gliding. True, they can travel quite a way without working their wings, but what they gain in distance they lose in height. They cannot glide far without beating their wings from time to time in order to climb back to a height from which they can start gliding again.

There is a way, however, by which birds rise without effort. They have learned to make the wind do the work. If a bird, travelling against the wind, holds his wings straight out and slightly tilted up against the breeze, the moving current of air striking the under side of his wings will lift him up. This flying stunt is almost opposite to gliding, for now the bird gains in height while losing in speed and distance.

Soaring birds, such as the eagle, vulture and albatross, make use of this trick to stay in the air for a long time without moving a wing. The skill of soaring is not thoroughly understood but it is thought that the trick of sailing in the teeth of the wind explains part of it. You have noticed that soaring birds travel in circles. They do that so that they can take advantage, by turns, of the lifting power of a counter-wind, and the pushing power of a wind at their backs. For a while the soarer travels up-wind, losing speed but gaining altitude; then he wheels and sweeps down-wind in a graceful curve gaining speed but losing a little altitude.

EDMUND COOKE, Guide-lecturer

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

When you have seen the film on "Soaring Wings", you will enjoy going to Halls 20 and 21 to study the birds there. Next Saturday, the program will include, "Assorted Babies", "The Fight for Life", Niagara the Glorious", "Where the Moose Runs Loose and "Feathered Braves".

D. C. DAVIES, Director

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER FOUR
MARCH 17, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII

NUMBER FIVE

MARCH 24, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Next Saturday, the motion picture will be "Grass". It will tell you a story of the nomads of Persia who must lead their flocks yearly across high mountain ranges in their search for pasture.

D. C. DAVIES, Director

OCTOPUS

"Octopus" or "octopod" means "eight-footed". The octopus belongs to a larger group of sea animals called cephalopods (pronounced *sef*-a-lo-pod), meaning "head-foot". Cephalopods are so named because their feet,—or arms, whichever you please to call them,—grow right out of their heads. The arms form a ring around the mouth. Indeed, the octopus looks as if he were made in only two parts: head and feet. But as a matter of fact, what you think is his head contains his stomach, heart, gills and all the rest of his organs.

The octopus, like other true cephalopods, walks standing on his head, with his mouth directed downward, and with what passes for his abdomen pointing backward and upward away from his feet. But since octopods live in the water, walking is much less important than swimming. It would seem an easy matter for an animal with eight arms to swim. And so it is; but strange to say, the octopus does not use his arms in swimming. All the cephalopods have a queer way of swimming which is as speedy as it is strange. Their bodies are covered by a skin hood called the mantle. Between this hood and the rest of the body is a space which fills with water when the mantle is relaxed. But the edge of the mantle may be held close so that the only way for the water inside to escape is from a tiny nozzle-like hole called the funnel. When the mantle contracts a stream of water is sent out of the funnel with such force that it drives the whole animal along.

It would be quite possible for you to construct a boat which should be driven by the same means. If the engine of your boat were made to run a force pump instead of a screw propeller; and if water were drawn into the pump through a hole in the bottom and forced out through a nozzle at the stern,—your boat would travel along like an octopus. Such a boat would not be so marvellous when you remember that the force of water from a fire hose is great enough to knock a man down, and that water power has long been used to turn mill wheels. In fact the marvel is that no shipbuilder has ever tried to model a boat after the example of the flying squid,—a cephalopod and near relative of the octopus which swims so fast that it can leap out of the water, and sail through the air.

Although we have never copied the octopus's way of swimming, we have borrowed other features of his make-up without much conscience. You saw what an effective instrument of war the octopus makes of the "smoke screen". He has been successfully covering up his retreat with an ink curtain for untold ages. Man only thought to borrow the idea during the Great War. The octopus's "smoke screen" is manufactured in his ink-sac, a dark pocket opening off his food canal. The ink is merely a by-product of disgestion.

Again, what about the "vacuum cups" on the under side of the octopus's arms? Maybe we haven't borrowed them for automobile tires! But as usual, our imitations are not as good as the octopus's original article. The suction of his "vacuum-cups" is created by living muscle. His arms cling to a smooth surface, such as the shell of a lobster, like a magnet to iron.

It is the business of the suction-arm to grasp the octopus' prey and draw it close to his mouth where his huge parrot-beak can tear it to pieces. In addition, as if these weapons were not enough, he has another trick which is designed to add to the discomfort of his victim. He manufactures a poisonous saliva, or mouth-juice, which has a paralyzing effect upon the animal bitten. It has been demonstrated that a little of this saliva injected into a crab will paralize it immediately, and at the end of a short time, kill it.

The octopus has habits that go with his reputation as an ogre of the sea. He lurks in caves or rocky hollows on the ocean bottom waiting for some unwary animal to wander too close. His skin has the power of changing color so as to make his body blend with the background of his hiding-place. But when he has made a catch, he becomes brilliant with rage in the heat of the combat. Some deep-sea octopods even have organs for producing their own light to hunt by, since the sun's light does not penetrate to the depths of the ocean.

Octopods are found all over the earth, from the frigid zones to the tropics, and from the deeps of the sea to tide-water. They are plentiful in the Mediterranean Sea. The people of that part of the world fancy them as food. In parts of Italy octopods are hawked on the street, as commonly as hot-dogs here.

EDMUND COOKE, Guide-lecturer

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES
FOR
CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER FIVE
MARCH 24, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Next Saturday, the motion picture will be "Grass". It will tell you a story of the nomads of Persia who must lead their flocks yearly across high mountain ranges in their search for pasture.

D. C. DAVIES, Director

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER SIX
MARCH 31, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The program next Saturday will show you "An African Adventure", "The Falcon Hunt", "The Lynx", "Wonder Book No. 3" and a special Easter film on "Chicks".

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

PERSIA AND ITS PEOPLE

When it rains in our country the children often repeat this old rhyme:

"Rain, rain, go away,
Come again some other day".

Persian children do not say that rhyme; for they are usually very glad when rainy days come. Much of Persia is dry, desert country; and many of its rivers are lost in the sands long before they have opportunity to reach the sea. The Karun river is the only one in the whole country that is large enough to be used as a highway for trading boats. People can travel over Persian tablelands for many weary miles and see no trees, no grass and no water. The sun gives out terrible heat all day; and when it sets at night the land becomes cold because there is little moisture in the air to hold the warmth of day. Persia has two famous deserts, called Dasht-i-Lut and Dasht-i-Kavir. One is a sand desert; but the other is covered with layers and layers of rock salt deposited by ancient seas. The quantities of rock salt buried in the ground would be more than enough to build a whole city of salt.

Wherever there is water in Persia, fruits and flowers can be found in abundance. Hundreds of trees grow on the shores of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, in southern Persia. Many of these trees are date palms and bear fruit enough to supply the whole country. Dates are the favorite food of Persian boys and girls; although they have many more good fruits such as apples, pears and peaches. Some people say that the best melons in the world can be found in Persia. It is said, too, that the world has that country to thank for growing the original grapes. Thousands of beautiful roses are cultivated every year and from the blossoms sweet perfumes are made. Fruits and flowers also grow along the shores of the Caspian Sea, in northern Persia.

Persia is a land of many mountains. They rise above the high tablelands of the east; they run almost all the way across the northern boundaries; and long chains of them stretch crosswise through the interior, running in a northwest to southeast direction. Many of these mountains are covered with snow; and icy streams from their melting glaciers rush down into the valleys. The west side of the mountains is much warmer than the east side; and in the wide plains just beyond the western foot-hills the grass grows thick and green all through the winter. With the coming of warm weather in the spring, however, the grass begins to wither; and by midsummer it is all dried out. On the east side of the mountains, where the weather is cooler, the grass remains green and fresh all through the summer; but when the winter arrives it freezes and dies.

The killing of the grass by heat on one side of the mountains and cold on the other side causes much hardship to the nomadic or wandering tribes of central Persia; for they depend on the grass to provide pasture for their flocks. Thousands of Bakhtiari and other Kurd tribes which belong to the Iranian family pitch their tents on the western slopes of the mountains at the beginning of winter and remain until spring. Their black, white and orange-colored tents, made of goat skin and open to the air on one side, are scattered in small groups all along the base of the mountain chain. In the spring they gather their large flocks of sheep and goats and their herds of cattle, ready to begin a long, dangerous journey in search of the green grass on the other side of the mountains. Many baby lambs and goats, little colts, and calves, and many human babies, too, must endure the heat of the desert and the cold of the mountain snows. Many of the youngest baby animals are tied on the back of donkeys or cows; the human babies are wrapped in strips of cloth and strapped to large wooden frames or cradles which the mothers carry on their backs.

Persian nomads depend on their flocks to provide them with food, clothing and shelter. Their chief food is mutton; and they are very fond of milk, especially when it is soured. Men and boys as well as women wear long robes with wide sleeves; and they all wear soft white cotton shoes, somewhat like socks. Some of them wear little round black caps. The men carry long guns; and they are not afraid of anybody or any difficulty. Twice a year the nomads are forced to cross the mountains; for at the end of summer in the eastern valleys, they must begin their search for grass. In the picture today you will see some of the Bakhtiari and their herds, making the semi-annual journey across the mountains in search of grass.

MARGARET FISHER, Guide-lecturer

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES
FOR
CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER SIX
MARCH 31, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL
HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The program next Saturday will show you "An African Adventure", "The Falcon Hunt", "The Lynx", "Wonder Book No. 3" and a special Easter film on "Chicks".

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

MUSEUM STORIES
FOR
CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER SEVEN
APRIL 7, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Doctor G. Clyde Fisher, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, will be here next Saturday to tell you of his experiences among the Plains and Hopi Indians and to show you motion pictures of their life.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

FALCONRY

For ages man has sought the aid of beasts and birds of prey in capturing animals to be used as food. Wild dogs and cats have been trained to pursue and kill the larger animals, ferrets have been taught to frighten rabbits from their burrows, cormorants have been made to catch fish for their masters and hawks and falcons have learned to strike down birds and swift, small mammals at man's bidding.

All of these forms of hunting are exciting and all of them require skill; and so, gradually, they have left the realm of the struggle for food and have become sports. This is especially true of falconry. Undoubtedly, the first use of these birds was to obtain grouse, partridges and other edible game for man's food; but even before the dawn of history, in Central Asia, men had begun to pit them in fascinating duels against herons, cranes, vultures and other strong, but inedible foes.

It is thought that falconry originated among the half-wild dwellers in the steppes of Central Asia. By the year 200 B.C., the Chinese had become adepts at the art. From them it extended to other Asiatic nations; and, in the Third Century A.D., the great migrations from the East carried it into Europe. In the Eighth Century, the Arabs entered Spain, bringing their hawks with them; and it was at about the same time that the sport became popular in England.

Both falcons and other hawks were used in falconry. Some birds were far stronger and more skillful than others and were assigned to hunters in accordance with their rank. Only a king was permitted to fly the great gyrfalcon. An earl might fly the peregrine and a yeoman, a goshawk; but the poor knave or servant could never hope to own a better bird than the little kestrel—a close relative of our sparrow hawk. In both Asia and Europe, many such rules were laid down for the management of birds of prey; and enough of them have come down to our own day to fill many volumes.

By far the most painstaking part of the falconer's work was the taming and training of his birds. If nestlings were taken, they had to be most carefully reared. Their diet had to be watched as closely as a child's; and they had to be taught to obey man's commands and to have no fear of him, his dogs or his horses. Wild falcons, caught after they were fully grown, had to learn the same lessons; and it was found that they could be taught by only two things darkness and hunger.

Because the female hawk or falcon is larger and more powerful than the male, she was the one most often used in falconry. She was caught in a trap or snare and carried to her master's house. There, to prevent her from injury in her struggles to be free, it was necessary to keep her in a dark room or to fasten a hood made of deer skin tightly about her head, covering her eyes. At first, she was fed regularly and taught to expect food when she heard a certain low call or whistle from her keeper. As she grew tamer, it was possible to remove her hood at intervals and finally to take it off whenever she was to be fed or to remove it altogether. She was taught to take food from the hand of her master, to fly to him from a distance, to pursue and light upon a lure dragged along the ground and, at length, to catch and kill live birds or small mammals released near her. When she had learned to look upon any game seen near her master as her food, she was ready to be used as a hunter.

She was not fed for a day; and then, carefully hooded, she was carried to the place where game was to be found. Sometimes she was not released until the quarry was actually in sight. At other times, she was unhooded and let go as soon as a good hunting place was reached; and after she had mounted to some height, she followed her master's movements closely, watching for the quarry to be frightened from cover by the men or dogs.

Once the game was in sight, she threw herself upon it—striking with talons and beak until the bird was wounded, or fastening herself upon it and tumbling with it to the ground. As a reward for her prowess, she was given the brain and the heart of her victim. If she was to be used for further hunting that day, however, she was not allowed to eat her fill, but was called to the lure and rehooded. Often a bird was expected to make five or six flights in one morning. The hawks were extremely well cared for; and the sport was in no way more cruel than other forms of hunting.

Falconry was popular in England until fire-arms became common; and it is still practiced in many parts of the Far East.

The American falcons and hawks, to be seen in Hall 21, have been used very little as hunters; but the Duck Hawk, the Gyrfalcon and the Goshawk are close relatives of those so used in the old world.

DOROTHY COCKEREL, Guide-lecturer

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Doctor G. Clyde Fisher, of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, will be here next Saturday to tell you of his experiences among the Plains and Hopi Indians and to show you motion pictures of their life.

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER SEVEN
APRIL 7, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII

NUMBER EIGHT

APRIL 14, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Hopi Indian Collections may be seen in Stanley McCormick Hall (Hall 7) and those from the Plains Indians are in Hall 5. Next week the Entertainment will include a number of films on China and one on the Yosemite Valley.

D. C. DAVIES, Director

HOPI INDIAN TALES

The Snake Dance was almost over. Little Samiwiki watched his mother sprinkle handfuls of sacred cornmeal over the men and snakes as they passed in the dance. Why did the Snake chiefs speak of those writhing snakes as "brothers" and treat them to so many ceremonies? The little Indian waited until all the snakes were safely started on their way toward the four quarters of the world. Then he asked his mother why the snakes were "brothers".

This is the story that Samiwiki heard. Once upon a time there was a young Hopi Indian who wanted to find out why the river was always in a hurry and where it was going. He decided to go and see; and so he made himself a boat and started downstream. On the way he met Spider Woman, who promised to help him. He seated her just behind his ear and carried her along with him. After a while they came to a pueblo village; and the people invited them to stay and watch the dancing. As soon as these strange people put on their dance shirts, they all turned into snakes. Then the young man knew the river had been hurrying to the Snake Country. At the suggestion of Spider Woman, he captured one of the large yellow rattlesnakes. To his great surprise and pleasure, the snake immediately became a beautiful Indian maiden. The young Hopi was so much pleased with her that he took the lovely Snake Woman home as his wife.

All went well until the babies were born. Their first children were all snakes and soon ran about the village scaring and biting the boys and girls. Finally the Indians chased the Snake Children down the side of the cliff and out into the desert. All the other children born to the Snake Woman grew up as ordinary Hopi Indians. When they heard about what their brothers had done and how they were punished, the Hopi children were sorry for the banished snakes, and hunted for them among the rocks. The little Indians carried their "brothers" home and entertained them for several days and then turned them loose in the desert again so that they might return to the Snake Country.

To this day members of the Snake clan set aside special days to show their snake brothers a good time. When the first day of the Snake ceremonies arrives, the Snake Chief sends scouts into the desert to hunt for their brothers. On succeeding days hunters go north, west, south and east. With digging sticks and snake whips they capture rattlesnakes, bull snakes, racers and other snakes both large and small. All are thrust into leather bags; carried to the village; and secured in pottery jars. Then the Indians take their captives into the underground club room or "kiva"; and the ceremonial snake washing begins. Every snake gets two baths in "medicine water"; and is thrown into a sand pile on the floor, to dry. While the men go to prepare themselves for the Snake Dance, the small boys have a good time keeping the writhing mass of snakes in the middle of the floor. When the creatures try to escape, the boys grab them with their hands and throw them back into the heap or hit them with snake whips until they behave. Although the Indian children enjoy teasing their snake brothers, they are very careful never to let the rattlers coil and strike. When the creatures start to coil, they are quickly straightened out again.

At last the Indians are all painted and decorated for the Snake Dance. Each performer dances for a while with a live snake held between his teeth. Then he drops it and picks up another. Other members of the Snake clan gather the snakes as they are dropped and hold them in their hands, taking care not to let the dangerous ones get their heads in position to strike. When every snake has been treated to a dance, the Snake Chief marks a big circle on the ground and the snakes are cast into the center, in a great heap. The most exciting part of the whole ceremony comes after the last snake has been cast into the ring. All at once the snake dancers make a dive for the wriggling mass, grab up as many snakes as possible in both hands, and dash away in every direction. They rush down the rocky cliff as if pursued. The snakes are set free, and soon disappear among the rocks to return to Snake Country, so the Indians say.

During every snake ceremony little Samiwiki watched the snakes closely, hoping that they might suddenly turn into Indian children, as the yellow rattlesnake had become a lovely Indian Maiden. When he was grown up he would be a snake dancer and hold his brother between his teeth while he danced.

A reproduction of an altar used in the Hopi snake ceremonies can be found in Stanley McCormick Hall (Hall 7) at Field Museum. The snakes of the four directions are pictured on colored sand. A case nearby contains effigies or puppets used in a theatrical performance among the Hopi Indians. The large toy snakes are made to wriggle out through holes in the screen and delight the audience by their antics.

MARGARET FISHER, Guide-lecturer

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES
FOR
CHILDREN

SERIES VIII

NUMBER EIGHT

APRIL 14, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Hopi Indian Collections may be seen in Stanley McCormick Hall (Hall 7) and those from the Plains Indians are in Hall 5. Next week the Entertainment will include a number of films on China and one on the Yosemite Valley.

D. C. DAVIES, Director

MUSEUM STORIES
FOR
CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER NINE
APRIL 21, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Blackstone Chinese Collection is one of the largest in the Museum. It occupies both Hall 24 and Hall 32 on the second floor. The last program of the series will be given next week. It will be "Moana of the South Seas".

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

GLIMPSES OF CHINA

Strange stories have been told concerning the early days of China, which is one of the oldest inhabited countries in the world. In one tale a dragon horse rises out of the Yellow River, bearing on its back a scroll or piece of writing. Some say that this was the beginning of learning. The Chinese have always been very eager to study. Confucius, who lived more than two thousand years ago, was China's greatest scholar. Every child in the land knows some of the wise sayings of Confucius; and many boys spend years studying the "classics", which are books written by Confucius and other wise men of ancient China.

At the time Confucius lived, China was not as large as it is today; and its rulers attempted to keep wandering or nomadic tribes from entering the country. One leader is said to have fought in a chariot drawn by eight large horses. A great wall was built across northern China as a defense against nomadic peoples; and, although that famous wall is now partly in ruins, it still extends over mountain and valley for fifteen hundred miles. That is farther than from Chicago to New York.

At the time Marco Polo visited China, the fierce horse-riding tribes from Mongolia had forced their way past the Great Wall and conquered the Chinese people south of them. One of the greatest Mongol rulers of China was Kublai Khan, who was celebrated in English poetry as well as in Chinese history. Three centuries after the Mongol invasion, Tartar tribes came down from Manchuria and took possession of the Chinese Empire. These "Manchus", as they were called, ruled for the next three centuries; and then, in 1911, the Chinese people put them out of power and formed a republic.

There are more than four times as many people living in China today as there are in the whole United States. Many of the Chinese are farmers. They raise quantities of rice, tea and cotton; and many fruits such as peaches, plums and oranges. In their gardens they develop varieties of chrysanthemums, peonies, lilies, wistarias and other lovely flowers. Some of the most useful plants in China are the trees from which lacquer or varnish is obtained and the white mulberry trees, the leaves of which furnish food for silk-worms.

It is said that the wife of the Yellow Emperor—one of China's ancient rulers—started the custom of raising silk-worms to provide silk for weaving cloth. Silk-worm culture became an important industry. The Chinese feed and care for the tiny insects as if they were pets. Another insect pet in China is the cricket. These little creatures are kept in cages and coaxed to sing. They are the prize-fighters of China. For many years the Chinese have enjoyed the sport of placing two fighting crickets in an earthenware bowl and goading them to combat by means of tickling straws. The winner is awarded an ivory medal, carefully inscribed.

Even the common carp, which is so abundant in the rivers of China, is sometimes treated as a pet. Our gold-fish have been developed from bright-colored carp. China has two rather large rivers which run for long distances through the interior and finally empty their waters into the sea. One of them is the Yellow River, which carries the mud from the plains of north China down to the Yellow Sea. The greatest waterway in the land is the Yangtze River, which runs through south-central China. The Grand Canal, an artificial river dug at right angles to the Yellow River and the Yangtze, connects the two; and it is an important highway for trade and travel. It is over a thousand miles long.

The Chinese have long been famous for their patience and skill, especially in carving small objects and in painting and embroidering beautiful pictures. When they write, the words or "characters" are painted on paper or silk, with fine hair brushes. Often the writing is so carefully and artistically done that the result seems like a neat design instead of an ordinary communication. The Chinese were among the earliest bronze workers. Delicate porcelain dishes were first made in China; and it is because the Chinese were the original porcelain makers that we call our table sets china.

Chinese pictures often tell a story or express an idea without words. Sometimes a birthday greeting is painted or embroidered on silk cloth, with pictures of animals and flowers which stand for certain ideas, such as long life and happiness. Long-legged cranes and tortoise usually mean long life; and sometimes the pine tree is used as a symbol of the same idea. Flowers such as the peony and the lotus blossom may mean happiness; and the bat is often used to express that idea, too. The tiger means bravery; and the dragon may show kingly power.

MARGARET FISHER, Guide-lecturer

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES
FOR
CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER NINE
APRIL 21, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Blackstone Chinese Collection is one of the largest in the Museum. It occupies both Hall 24 and Hall 32 on the second floor. The last program of the series will be given next week. It will be "Moana of the South Seas".

D. C. DAVIES, Director.

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII

NUMBER TEN

APRIL 28, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The next course of Entertainments for Children will begin about October first. You are cordially invited to attend it.

D. C. DAVIES, Director

THE SOUTH SEA ISLANDS

Many of the islands scattered over the Pacific Ocean between America and Asia seem like bits of fairyland floating on the water. It is always summer-time on most of them; and flowers, palm trees and other tropical plants grow in abundance.

Some of the South Sea Islands are really the tops of volcanic mountains rising high above the water; and others are made of coral deposits resting on mountains which are buried under the surface of the ocean. The mountainous interior of many islands is covered with a dense growth of ferns, palms and other plants. Near the shore are narrow stretches of level ground on which we may catch a glimpse of native villages and garden patches. Often the coral reefs along the outer edge of the islands form barriers between land and sea. Great waves break over the reefs and send white spray into the air.

Geographers divide the South Sea Islands into three groups:—Melanesia, Micronesia and Polynesia. The word Melanesia means "black island"; and the name was given to the first group of islands because most of the natives have very dark skin. Micronesia means "small island"; and all of the islands in the group deserve the name. There are so many islands in the group that it was named Polynesia,—"many islands".

Polynesia includes the Hawaiian Islands north of the equator; New Zealand far south of it; Easter Island on the way to America; and Samoa on the international date line. There is a tradition among the Polynesians that they all came originally from Savaii, the largest of the Samoan Islands; and thus Samoa may be the historical as well as the geographical center of Polynesia. The film today will show you native life in Samoa.

In watching the natives of Samoa at their work and play, we shall learn many interesting facts concerning life in the South Seas. They are excellent swimmers, and are skillful in managing their dug-out canoes. Fishing occupies much of their time. The children gather crabs and shell-fish. One large crab is called robber because it climbs trees and steals cocoanuts. The young men and boys catch fish on the end of spears or in nets. Sometimes they capture a turtle, a shark or an octopus. Once a year the natives have a great feast of worms. The palolo worm hides in the coral reefs until egg-laying time. Then its body breaks in two, the half full of eggs rising to the surface of the water and scattering the eggs. The worms are caught in nets, roasted and eaten.

Next in importance to sea foods is the coconut. The meat of this fruit is often shaved into bits and eaten like pudding; and the milk takes the place of drinking water when that is scarce. Samoans are very fond of a drink made from the roots of the Kava plant. The ceremonies of making and drinking Kava are elaborate. A healthy young girl with good teeth, who is chosen by the village chiefs, chews the roots to a soft pulp. Then the juices are mixed with water in a large wooden bowl. The solid pieces are removed with a fiber strainer. The yellow liquid is served to the chiefs in order of their rank; and the common people must wait until the noblemen have had their share.

Samoans, like other South Sea Islanders, are famous for making bark-cloth. The inner bark of the paper mulberry tree is soaked in water and then beaten with a grooved wooden mallet. Several layers of the soft fiber are glued together with arrowroot paste. The cloth is decorated with the aid of a stencil or stamp made of coconut and Pandanus leaves. The artist uses a certain kind of earth and a varnish-like sap for red and brown colors; the candlenut mixed with oil, for black; and the root of turmeric, for yellow. Men and women wear tapa cloth as skirts; they wear necklaces of shell and seeds; and deck their hair with Hibiscus and other flowers.

The Samoans are graceful dancers. Men, women and children take part in ceremonial dances called "sivas". Until recently Samoan boys could not be counted as men unless they were tatooed. The process is painful; for needles covered with colored dyes are forced beneath the skin in order to make a permanent design on the body. Only one girl in each Samoan village must be tatooed. This is the "taupou," chosen to represent the village and married to the chief of a neighboring village. Everything must be done "fa'a Samoa" as the natives say; which means in accordance with the ancient customs of the village. Custom is really the most important law of the land.

The natives of the Samoan islands have brown skin and very dark hair; and some of them are very beautiful. They are said to be among the tallest people in the world. These people, like all other Polynesians, probably originally belonged to the white race; but some of them have intermarried with black, yellow or brown peoples.

MARGARET FISHER, Guide-lecturer

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The next course of Entertainments for Children will begin about October first. You are cordially invited to attend it.

D. C. DAVIES, Director

Field Museum is *free to children at all times.* It is free to adults on Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

The open hours are as follows:

November, December, January
9 A. M. to 4:30 P. M.

February, March, April, October
9 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.

May, June, July, August, September
9 A. M. to 6:30 P. M.

MUSEUM STORIES FOR CHILDREN

SERIES VIII
NUMBER TEN
APRIL 28, 1928

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY
ROOSEVELT ROAD AND LAKE MICHIGAN
CHICAGO